

## **Testimony of Peter Murray in Support of LD 677**

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, Members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Peter Murray. I live in Portland and have been a member of the Bar of the State of Maine for more than 55 years.

In my judgment, LD 677 is a reasonable and well-thought-out measure to reduce gun violence in Maine. Rapid-fire and machine gun conversion devices have no legitimate use in Maine. Maine law currently prohibits rapid-fire weapons and firearms that have been converted to rapid-fire by the installation of these devices. If we are serious about keeping rapid-fire weapons out of the hands of persons who can misuse them, we should prohibit the add-ons that make them rapid-fire.

Many other states, "red" and "blue" have acted to prohibit the possession of rapid-fire add-on devices as well as rapid-fire weapons themselves. Federal regulation of rapid-fire guns is not enough. Federal law does not cover all such weapons, notably guns equipped with "bump stocks" which have figured in more than one mass shooting. Maine law enforcement officers should not have to "go to the feds" in order to deal with these dangerous instrumentalities. This bill will deal with the limitations and anomalies in current federal regulation.

LD 677 is a moderate and common-sense measure that we can all support. Please vote this bill "Ought to Pass."